

## DECLINE IN PRICES FORETOLD BY BENNER

Ohio Farmer Prophet Issues Predictions.

### HIS ANNUAL FORECAST

Republicans Tipped Off to Win Presidential Election—Years of Plenty Ahead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Samuel Benner's prophecies for 1904 have been issued and the bulls of Wall Street are much cast down, while the bears are correspondingly elated. Mr. Benner thinks prices in all lines of industry are going to be much lower in the coming year, but believes it will be the turning point in the bear movement and will be followed by twenty years of inflation. These prophecies have been so often correct in commercial as well as political matters that they are taken seriously in the business world.

Benner is an Ohio farmer who tills the soil by day and studies the stars by night. For many years he was a local oracle only. He told the farmers of his neighborhood by star gazing whether or not to plant their potatoes in the dark of the moon, when it would be the best time to shuck corn to get the best results, and how best to swap a roan horse for a sorrel when the moon was in perigee. By and by the fame of his predictions spread through the whole country round and for twenty years or more they have been published in pamphlet form every year. The first copy of the 1904 volume reached Wall Street yesterday and was read with deep interest by the speculators. Mr. Benner's predictions for 1904 are as follows:

#### Leading Predictions.

"I predict that prices for pig iron, railroad stock and many commodities will be lower in 1904 than in 1903."

"I predict that the Republican party will be successful in the election of November, 1904."

"I predict that after the year 1904 there will be a revival in trade, better times and that higher prices will prevail until the year 1911."

"The present down cycle in prices and in general business ends in 1904; and by reason of protective tariff this country has not had such a long period of hard times during the last three years. Nevertheless, there has been a stupendous fall in prices and shrinkage in values of railroad and industrial securities, with a severe decline in iron."

#### Influence of Election.

"Prices for iron, railroad stocks and many industrial securities will continue to be depressed until the future policy of this Government is settled in the coming election for President."

"Now, while we have had a disastrous reaction in prices from stocks and investment securities, it is to be reasonably expected that a further moderate business reaction will follow to the close of this low cycle."

"Therefore, the decline in iron and steel, surplusage of orders for railroad materials and manufactured commodities will continue through the year 1904."

"The year 1905 will be the beginning of a new up cycle in pig iron, and for a long continued prosperity in general business, lasting until the next commercial revolution, which will be in 1911."

"The coming opportunities to catch business and prices at their lowest limits of depression will not happen again for twenty years. It is estimated by financial experts that the shrinkage in values in railroad, mining and various industrial securities during the last two years amount to \$4,000,000,000. It is possible that the loss of this vast amount of money can be recovered and a thousand million dollars more of inflated values added to these securities during the coming years of prosperity."

## BOSTONESE AFFLICTED NOW WITH HUMERITIS

Shoulders of Men Who Always Hang to Straps in Street Cars Get Out of Shape.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 23.—Boston physicians have discovered a new disease prevalent in Boston, which has been termed "humeritis," or "Boston shoulder," due to continual strap-hanging in the subway cars.

"A large majority of men you meet," says one physician, "you will find are lop-sided, with the right shoulder a trifle higher than the left. Persons who travel long distances on the L. train or the crowded subway cars almost always develop this inequality in their shoulders, and the fact is growing more noticeable every day. Tennis players, baseball players, fencers, lamp-lighters, sign painters, and those who have their right arm and shoulders in an elevated position are also prone to the disease."

"The ligaments of the right shoulder become stretched permanently after twenty minutes to an hour daily of this strain. The unnatural strain, especially from strap-hanging, not only weakens the joints and muscles of the shoulder, but also weakens the heart action, and affects the brain centers, sometimes producing chronic neurasthenia in women."

## LAKE SHORE RAILROAD DECLARES A DIVIDEND

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent.

It placed the stock on an 8 per cent annual basis.

## PARIS BAKERS VOTE FOR A GENERAL STRIKE

PARIS, Dec. 23.—At a large meeting today the bakers of Paris, and the employees of four other supply corporations, voted to enter a general strike.

It will go into effect at once.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought

## MT. PLEASANT STREET NOT TO BE AN AVENUE

The Engineer-Commissioner Reports Adversely.

### FAVORS FOLLOWING CUSTOM

Takes Issue With Citizens' Association Which Requested a Change.

The Engineer Department of the District government does not agree with the Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association regarding the significance of such words as "street," "place," and "avenue." The association recently wrote the District Commissioners requesting that Mount Pleasant Street be called "Mount Pleasant Avenue." Instead of Mount Pleasant Street, arguing that the term "street" is not in keeping with the dignity of the suburb.

Colonel Biddle, Engineer-Commissioner, recommends that the association be informed the word "street" or "place" is more appropriate to a street only three blocks in length and eighty-five feet in width than the word "avenue."

#### Reasons for Exceptions.

"While other streets," says the Commissioner, "of much less importance than Mount Pleasant Street have been called avenue (as, for example, Scott Avenue, one block in length and thirty feet wide, running from Brightwood to Whitney Avenue), they were so named by the property owners in laying out subdivisions, at a time when the Commissioners had no control over the selection of names."

"It seems to the Commissioners that it is out of proportion to the names of great avenues, such as Massachusetts Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue, etc., to give short, narrow thoroughfares similar designations. Following the custom of the founders of the city is the wisest policy."

#### Name Not Undignified.

"As to the name 'street' being undignified, the Commissioners would remark that there can be no finer thoroughfares than K, Sixteenth, North Capitol, East Capitol, Fourteenth, and F Streets. In Columbia Heights such attractive residence streets as Roanoke, Yale, Harvard, etc., are known as streets, and many diagonal streets outside the city limits are called streets, such as Back Street, Superior Street, Park Street, and others."

Colonel Biddle's recommendation has the approval of Commissioner Macfarland.

## AUTHORITY TO RENAME STREETS IN SUBURBS

The Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association recently requested of the District Commissioners that the name of Mount Pleasant Street be changed to Mount Pleasant Avenue. The Commissioners have declined the request, and that the driveway from Brightwood Avenue west to the entrance of Rock Creek Park, be called Park Avenue. The District Commissioners today approved a recommendation by Colonel Biddle, Engineer-Commissioner, that the association be informed a bill has been introduced in Congress at the request of the Commissioners to give them authority to name or rename all streets outside of the city limits.

If this bill becomes a law, the whole question of renaming the streets outside the city will be taken up. This cannot be done until such authority is granted, since at present, the Commissioners have authority to rename streets only in those cases where two different streets bear the same name.

## RUSSIA REJECTS JAPAN'S DEMANDS

(Continued from First Page.)

almost certain that Japan and Russia will become involved in war. They fear that it would be impossible for China to maintain neutrality in the event of hostilities, and the officials are now discussing with the legations the best attitude for China to adopt.

## BLACK AND DANGEROUS, SAYS A DIPLOMATIST

MANCHESTER, England, Dec. 23.—The London correspondent of the "Guardian" today sends his paper an interview with a diplomatist, who has hitherto taken a very optimistic view of the situation in the Far East. The correspondent says:

"This diplomatist now regards the situation as black and dangerous. Indeed, he thinks the East and West Landed aristocracy will be forced to take a more active part in the war, and now swarm the banks of the River Singari. They are also running over the province of Ussuri and along the Gulf of Olga."

## KOREAN SHIPS ATTACKED BY CHINESE BRIGANDS

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 23.—The "Novoye Vremya" prints a dispatch from Vladivostok stating that the Chinese, or Chinese brigand bands, have grown enormously, and now swarm the banks of the River Singari. They are also running over the province of Ussuri and along the Gulf of Olga. The robbers are armed with Winchester rifles, and find no difficulty in raiding towns. At one point the brigands have established a custom house, from which point they have begun attacking Korean vessels carrying supplies to Vladivostok. A number of murders have occurred, which can be traced to the brigands.

#### General Teranchi Decorated.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The Kaiser today conferred the Order of the Red Eagle on General Teranchi, Japanese minister of war.

#### WILL CLOSE FOR THREE DAYS.

House & Herrmann wish to inform their patrons that they will close their establishment Christmas Eve at 6 o'clock, and will remain closed until December 25.

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Hitchcock*

## HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS SING CHRISTMAS SONGS

Elaborate Musical Programs in Three Schools.

### INSPIRED BY PRACTICE

Many Weeks of Training by Edwin S. Tracy and Miss Sallie Mason Produce Fine Results.

Three notable concerts were given today at the various Washington High Schools, when the pupils of each division took part in an interesting and delightful musical program.

For two weeks preparations have been made for today's concerts and the results highly justified the efforts of pupils and instructors.

The first concert was given at 9 o'clock this morning at the Central High School, when 85 young voices united in singing several well-known Christmas songs. The great ensemble, and the fine manner in which the young men and women sang the selections was not only a musical treat, but an inspiring one.

#### Chorus and Orchestra.

Following the concert at the Central there was another at 11 o'clock at the Western, and at 1 o'clock the third recital was given at the Eastern High School. The same program was used at all three entertainments, and proved as entertaining as the occasion and circumstances demanded.

The choruses were recruited from pupils of the several schools and were drilled by Edwin S. Tracy, who also rehearsed with signal success an orchestra of twenty pupils, which furnished the accompaniment, assisted by Miss Sallie Mason, the regular accompanist in the public schools.

#### The Program.

Among the numbers which figured on the program were:

March from "Tannhauser" (Wagner), High School Orchestra; pilgrims' chorus from "Tannhauser" (Wagner); "Christmas Bells" (Gilechrist); "Christmas Song" (Schumann); "Gather Around the Christmas Tree" (Christmas Carol) (Gilechrist); "Ring Out, Wild Bells" (Gilechrist); "There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field" (Mendelssohn); "Glory to God" (Miss Alys Biddle); "The Glory of the Lord" (Mendelssohn).

The High School Orchestra is composed of the Misses Anna Woodward and Messrs. Boernstein, Pole, Lee, Levy, McSwen, Lent, Rummel, Gill, Kahler, and Orton.

## WORKING TO PREVENT MORE YELLOW FEVER

Public Health Service Busy Along the Texas Border.

Special efforts are being made by the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service to prevent a recurrence next summer of the yellow fever epidemic on the Texas border. While the fever has now been stamped out at Laredo and surrounding towns, it is feared next season will witness a return of the disease.

Dr. Wyman said this morning he had recently held a conference with Drs. Tabor and Souther in reference to prevention of another fever epidemic. In order to accomplish it, it will be necessary to clean up the towns along the border thoroughly. He is convinced of the correctness of the mosquito theory, and every effort will be made to prevent spread of the disease next summer through this agency.

## ARMY VETERANS TO ACT IN ENOCH HURST CASE

The Responsibility Will Be Placed, They Say.

### MISS LENIG IS CONFIDENT

Superintendent of Emergency Hospital Denies That Patient Signed Paper Under Duress.

Investigation is to be made, at the instance of veterans of John A. Rawlins Post and high officials of the Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., into the charge preferred by their comrade, Enoch Hurst, that he was detained at the Emergency Hospital against his protests until he had signed a paper releasing the institution from responsibility for his injuries, received by being run over by the hospital ambulance.

Local veterans announced this morning that although they had not yet taken any definite action in the case, the responsibility would be placed, and if any injustice had been done Comrade Hurst, reparation would be demanded. The G. A. R. men are bent upon seeing the ends of justice conserved, and will, with the assistance of Attorney Block, ascertain the facts.

At Providence Hospital, where Hurst was taken after leaving the Emergency Hospital, he was reported to be resting quietly and doing as well as could be expected.

#### Miss Lenig's Denial.

Nothing more is to be given out from the Emergency Hospital concerning the allegations made by Enoch Hurst until consultation can be held by the authorities.

Irene B. Lenig, superintendent, however, said she felt sure she could produce evidence which would weaken the claim of Hurst that he signed the paper under duress. Miss Lenig said that in view of the suit which would probably be brought against the hospital, President Boardman was unwilling that any statements should be given out at present.

## FIRE DRILL TERMINATES HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Christmas Tree Ablaze at St. Dominic's While 300 Children Were Assembled There.

Three hundred children were assembled this morning in the main recitation room of St. Dominic's school, Sixth and F Streets southwest, for a morning holiday celebration.

The Christmas trees, two of them, were in place, and it was decided to light them. One of the trees, which was dry, ignited, and in a moment the whole was in a blaze. The children were marched out without a sign of disorder by their tutors, and No. 4 Engine Company was called. The flames that they were practically under control when the department arrived on the scene. The damage amounted to \$50.

Fire from an unknown cause did \$50 damage this morning in the store of Joseph Harbour, 712 Second Street northwest. A little later the chimney of Amanda Anderson's house, at 621 Scott Avenue northwest, caught fire, and every effort was made to prevent Trunk F. extinguished it without calling out the department.

## COMPLAINANTS' DENIAL IN SHIP TRUST CASE

Never Saw Letters Placed in Evidence.

### CHARGES OF CONTEMPT

Willingness Expressed to Proceed With Investigation, But Not to Side-track Main Issue.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the complainants in the proceedings to make the receiver of the United States Shipbuilding Company permanent, opened the hearing this morning by denying that his firm had been a party in making public the communications which passed between Mr. Alexander, counsel for John W. Young, promoter of the shipyard combine while in Paris, and his firm in New York.

Mr. Untermyer declared that his firm had never seen the communications, until printed, and that the efforts of opposing counsel to bring the issue brought up on the plea of contempt of court for their publication was only an excuse to belabor the real issue, which sought to show fraud and treachery on the part of one who controlled the directors of the shipyard combine and the company itself.

#### Gates a Listener.

John W. Gates, who was called as a witness, came into court at this time and listened attentively to what Mr. Untermyer said. Mr. Untermyer said he would be willing, at a proper time, to make an investigation of the so-called charges of contempt, but he did ask that "certain acts of the other side be investigated, such as the work of the press agent of Mr. Schwab in giving out reports."

William D. Guthrie, counsel for Mr. Schwab, said in answer, that he had subpoenaed several witnesses for the purpose of investigating the charges of contempt.

Mr. Untermyer objected, and Special Examiner Oliphant ruled that the complainants' case be proceeded with.

Alfred Rose, expert accountant, who examined the books of the Bethlehem Steel Company for the receiver of the shipyard combine, was the first witness. Mr. Rose was heavily armed with papers covered with figures. After qualifying, Mr. Rose submitted reports of earnings for the various years, commencing in 1900.

## WANT APPROPRIATION CONTINUED UNTIL USED

The District Commissioners have requested an opinion from the Comptroller of the Treasury, relative to an appropriation made in 1901 for constructing the sewage disposal system.

The sum of \$2,093.27 remains unexpended, but Auditor Garrison believes it is not available for the reason that it was a current appropriation for 1901. The Commissioners want the appropriation made "running," so that the money can be available until used.

## LEAGUE DENOUNCED BY NEGRO REPUBLICANS

Blaine Invincibles Adopt Resolutions Aimed at National Suffrage Body.

The Blaine Invincible Republican Club, at a meeting last night, presided over by Col. Perry H. Carson, passed resolutions "denouncing the proceeding of the self-constituted convention" of the National Suffrage League, held in Washington December 14 and 15, 1903.

"Whereas at a recent convention held in this city known as the National Suffrage League, called and conducted by Rev. S. L. Corrothers, which met for two days and accomplished nothing, having divided in two separate organizations."

"Be it resolved, That we, the members of the Blaine Invincible Republican Club feel with keen regret the action of said convention and condemn its conduct; believing that said convention would have resulted in much good if the purpose for which it was called had been discussed in a fair, intelligent and from a non-political standpoint."

"Further, we disapprove of the disorder and way in which said convention performed its work."

"Further, we cannot any longer look to such men to lead us, but must look to the conservative workmen to direct our affairs, and lead us onward to a better condition in this country."

"Further, we endorse the principles of the Republican party and will do all we can to elect delegates from the District of Columbia who shall vote for the nomination of President Roosevelt and pray for his election to the Presidency in 1904."

"Further, that a mass meeting be called by the Blaine Invincible Club for the citizens of the District of Columbia at an early date."

## CHINA IN WHITE HOUSE WILL BE EXHIBITED

Collection of Historic Dishes to Be Placed in Cases and Displayed in Lower Halls.

The large and valuable collection of historic china at the White House, now stored away on the upper shelves of the pantries, where no one ever sees it, will be placed on public exhibition.

No end of inquiries are made by women calling at the White House to see this china. As the result of a conference on the subject between Mrs. Roosevelt and Colonel Symons, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, it has been decided to put the china in glass cases, which will be provided in the lower hallway. This will be a permanent arrangement, and it is expected this and future Administrations will add to the collection.

## Open Tonight and Tomorrow Night.



The Best Gift Santa Can Bring You.

## PIANOS

Less Than Half.

The best Santa Claus is the Santa Claus that brings a piano, and the best Christmas is the Christmas that brings a piano into your home—to keep the young folks at home nights—to provide an endless source of entertainment and to give your children a musical education. It is not too late to get that piano now—tonight or tomorrow. Here's the opportunity. Every square piano and organ in our warehouse is to be closed out at almost give-away prices, and on the easiest of easy terms.

Such makes as Steins, Knabes, Chickering, Vose, and Steinways are going at prices like these.

Pianos at . . . \$20

Pianos at . . . \$35

Pianos at . . . \$45

Pianos at . . . \$65

And others proportionately reduced.

Good Upright Piano for \$145.00

F. G. SMITH PIANO COMPANY

Bradbury Building, 1225 Pa. Ave.

## PERFUMERY

The best French, English, and American makes

Williams' Temple Drug Store

Cor. Ninth and F Sts.

## Men's & Boys' Sweaters.

500 more at 95c; worth double. They're beautiful.

C. AUERBACH, 7 & M. Importer of Saxony Wool Jackets and Sweaters, Men's, Ladies', Boys', and Girls'.

98c 49c to \$8.50 The Union Store

## CLOSED ALL DAY FRIDAY (XMAS DAY)

## HAHN'S SHOES IN THE STOCKINGS EARN GRATITUDE FOR THE GIVER

We here give over 50 wise, practical, excellent Xmas suggestions, which will reflect credit upon you—besides saving time, worry, and money. Every "HAHN" Shoe is guaranteed to wear, fit, and give satisfaction. They may be exchanged after the holidays if you don't happen to guess the right size. Notwithstanding our enormous holiday sales, we still have nearly as many shoes in our three stores as all other Washington stores together contain. Prompt and efficient service is assured here tomorrow.

### Gifts for Men

Handy Bathroom Slippers, 15c as low as.

Imitation Alligator, Felt, and Velvet House Slippers, 48c.

75c Storm Rubbers, best-wearing kinds, 60c.

\$1 grade Imitation Alligator Slippers, tan or black, 69c.

Tan or black kid and flexible sole Cloth Slippers, 95c.

Wool-lined Buckle Arctics and Storm Overshoes, 95c.

\$1.50 Kid-lined, Seal, Calf, Kid, Walrus, and Felt Romeo, 1.19.

Low-cut Slippers, 1.25.

Satin Calf solid double sole Laced and Garters, 1.25.

\$2 grade Tan and Black; very soft and pretty Slippers, 1.50.

All our \$2.00 and \$3.00 House Slippers, reduced to 1.95.

Guaranteed Patent Leather, Calf and Kid, Dress and Evening-day Shoes, 1.95.

Good quality Rubber and Calf Boots, light or heavy, 2.50.

Best \$3.00 quality Storm King Rubber Boots, 3.00.

Our "Gem" fine hand-made Vici Kid, Box Calf, and Patent Calf Dress, Walking, and Storm Shoes, 3.00.

Booth's famous Patent Ideal Kid \$3 grade Laced and But, 3.50.

Our "TRI-WEAR" Shoes give thrice the wear and satisfaction of any Shoes sold 3.50.

\$5 Kid-lined double sole Supra Kid Bluchers, 4.50.

Finest-made guaranteed Patent Kid and Corona 5.00.

### For Children

Babies' Warm Laced Shoes, 19c in pretty colors.

Babies' Soft Kid Boots and Moccasins, all colors, 25c.

Boys' and Girls' Warm Felt House Slippers, 35c.

Misses' 30c grade Storm Rubbers, 37c.

Children's Fleece-lined Jersey Leggings, sizes to 16, 39c.

Girls' Felt Sole Juliette and Boys' Imitation Alligator Slippers, 48c.

Children's Spring-heel and Heelless Kid Laced and Button Shoes, sizes to 8, 48c.

Babies' 75c and \$1 Fur-trimmed Velvet Laced and Felt Slippers, reduced to 50c.

Misses' and Children's Red Felt Juliette with flexible leather soles, 69c.

Boys' Vici Kid, kid lined, patent leather, trimmed Slippers, sizes 6 to 11; were 1.25, 75c.

Sizes 12 to 14, were 1.25, 90c.

Boys' Tan Kid Romeo Slippers, sizes to 12, 95c.

Sizes 2 1/2 to 5 1/2; reduced to 1.19.

Child's Rubber Boots, sizes 6 to 10 1/2, 95c.

Sizes 11 to 12, 1.25.

Boys' Heavy Storm King Boots, sizes 11 to 12 1/2, 1.95.

Guaranteed Patent Leather Shoes for boys and girls—

\$1.50, \$1.95, and \$2.50.

Calf, High-cut Storm 1.50 Shoes, sizes 6 to 13 1/2.

Sizes 1 to 1 1/2, 1.95.

"TRI-WEAR" Boys' Shoes, heat made at any price, sizes 10 to 13 1/2, 2.00.

Sizes 1 to 5 1/2, 2.50.

### For Ladies

Black Cheviot Warm Over-gaiters, 19c.

Velour Velvet Bathroom Slippers, 25c.

50c Storm Rubber Over Shoes, all sizes, 39c.

Leather and Felt Sole Cloth Slippers, Juliette, and Bathroom Slippers, 48c.

Wool-lined Cloth Laced 69c.

Buckle Arctics and Fleece-lined \$1 Storm Over Shoes, 75c.

Velvet and Felt 1.25 and 1.50 grade pretty Juliette and Low Cut House Slippers, 95c.

All our \$1.50 and \$2 Satin and Plush Juliette, 1.19.

Old Ladies' Comfort Shoes, in kid or warm cloth, 1.25.

High-cut 3-buckle Light Weight and Warm 2 Over 1.48.

Pretty \$2 and \$3 Strap Kid and Patent Leather Sandals, 1.50 for evening wear.

Finest \$2 Chinchilla Fur-trimmed Boudoir Juliette, 1.50.

Cork Sole Box Calf 1.90.

Hand Waxed Laced Boots, 2.50.

\$2.50 Kid and Patent Calf, Plain or Beaded Fur Sandals, 1.95.

Highest grades in many swell style Evening Slippers, 3.50.

The \$2 grades at 2.50.

The \$3.50 grades at 2.50.

Our great "VI-MO-DAU-SIS" Health and Beauty Boots, greatest shoes on earth 3.00 at.

The "VIZ-NUS" Surprisingly Beautiful—Guaranteed Patent Ideal Kid Boots at 3.50.

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